

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Wilson to Hold Press Conference to Discuss Deplorable Wait for Social Security Disability

WHEN: Thursday, February 21, 2008, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Wilson's District Office in Bridgeport
800 Main Street
Bridgeport, OH 43912

WHO: U.S. Representative Charlie Wilson

Tom Sell, former Union plumber who waited more than 2 years for his disability payments despite being legally blind in one eye and severely impaired in the other eye due to macular degeneration. By the time he got his first disability check, foreclosure proceedings had begun on Sell's house.

Barbara Danford, Social Security Caseworker for Rep. Wilson

WHAT: Recently, CBS Evening News ran a story about the Social Security Administration (SSA) and its terrible record of denying justified disability claims. The report, called "Failing the Disabled", completed a two-month CBS News investigation that found that millions of disabled people are denied the Social Security disability benefits that they've paid for. The report concluded that the SSA has a "culture to deny" claims.

CBS News reported that two-thirds of all applicants denied last year-nearly a million

people-gave up after being turned down the first time.

"These disabled workers aren't looking for a government handout. These are benefits that these American workers have paid for. This is a system we've all been paying into since we earned our first paycheck," Wilson said.

Out of concern for the residents in Ohio's Sixth Congressional District, Rep. Wilson recently sent a letter to the Commissioner of Social Security, Michael Astrue. Wilson demanded a prompt response to the allegations in the CBS report and asked for more information as to what steps the SSA is taking to ensure better consideration of people's claims.